

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. 10/631,357

Inventor(s): Rockett et al.

Title: AUTOMATED ENROLLMENT AND ACTIVATION
OF TELEMATICS EQUIPPED VEHICLES

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Group Art Unit: 3663

Examiner: Ronnie Mancho

Attorney Docket: GP-303782-OST-ALS

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This amendment and response is being filed in reply to the final Office Action mailed January 20, 2006.

Claim amendments begin on page 2, followed by the remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

1 – 16 (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method for automated enrollment and activation of a mobile telematics system, comprising:

receiving a customer data record of a customer at a communication services database;

determining a command signal based on the customer data record;

sending the command signal to a telematics unit of a vehicle;

enrolling the customer in a telematics-unit access system based on the command signal; and

activating the telematics unit of the telematics-unit access system based on the command signal; ~~The method of claim 1 wherein~~

wherein the step of receiving a customer data record comprises:

determining whether a vehicle associated with the customer data record is powered up;

determining whether the vehicle is sold; and

determining whether a customer associated with the customer data record is in the vehicle with a dealer.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for automated enrollment and activation of a mobile telematics system, comprising:

receiving a customer data record of a customer at a communication services database;

determining a command signal based on the customer data record;

sending the command signal to a telematics unit of a vehicle;

enrolling the customer in a telematics-unit access system based on the command signal; and

activating the telematics unit of the telematics-unit access system based on the command signal; The method of claim 1 wherein

wherein the step of activating the telematics unit of the telematics-unit access system based on the command signal comprises:

determining whether a subscriber associated with the customer data record has used the telematics-unit access system within a predetermined time period; and

providing an outbound welcome call based on the determination.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for automated enrollment and activation of a mobile telematics system, comprising:

receiving a customer data record of a customer at a communication services database;

determining a command signal based on the customer data record;

sending the command signal to a telematics unit of a vehicle;

enrolling the customer in a telematics-unit access system based on the command signal; and

activating the telematics unit of the telematics-unit access system based on the command signal; The method of claim 1 wherein

wherein the step of activating the telematics unit of the telematics-unit access system based on the command signal comprises:

performing a preliminary activation of the telematics unit prior to shipping the vehicle to a dealer; and

transmitting instructions based on the command signal from the telematics-unit access system to the telematics unit.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for automated enrollment and activation of a mobile telematics system, comprising:

receiving a customer data record of a customer at a communication services database;

determining a command signal based on the customer data record;
sending the command signal to a telematics unit of a vehicle;
enrolling the customer in a telematics-unit access system based on the
command signal;

activating the telematics unit of the telematics-unit access system based
on the command signal; ~~The method of claim 1 further comprising~~

associating a vehicle identification number with an electronic serial number of a
cell phone in the telematics unit; and

transmitting the association to a vehicular database.

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed January 20, 2006, claims 1-9 and 14-16 were rejected on prior art grounds, claims 10-13 were withdrawn as the result of a restriction requirement, and claims 17-20 were held to be allowable subject to being rewritten into independent form. By virtue of this amendment, claims 17-20 are being re-written into independent form and claims 1-16 are being cancelled in favor of a continuation application substantially covering the subject matter of those claims. Accordingly, the cancellation of claims 1-16 is without disclaimer of the subject matter thereof and without prejudice to Applicants' right to further pursue the subject matter of those claims in another application.

In the Office Action, the Examiner responded to earlier remarks made on behalf of Applicants, stating in effect that the asserted definition of "telematics system" ("telematics unit" is actually the term that is used in the claims and in the prior remarks) was too narrow as it involved improperly reading limitations from the specification into the claims. Applicants agree that "telematics unit" as used in the claims 1-20 is not limited to the particular embodiment disclosed in the specification, and Applicants therefore retract the statement from the earlier remarks that their specification defines telematics unit as including a "digital signal processor (DSP) 122 connected to a wireless modem 124, a global positioning system (GPS) receiver or GPS unit 126, a memory 128, a microphone 130, one or more speakers 132, and an embedded or in-vehicle phone 134." The above-quoted language from the specification is not a definition of "telematics unit," but is an identification of merely one embodiment of a telematics unit which can be used in conjunction with the invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is therefore requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if doing so would advance prosecution of this case.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee for one additional claim as well as any deficiencies in fees, or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 07-0960.

Respectfully submitted,

REISING, ETHINGTON, BARNES, KISSELLE, P.C.

/James D. Stevens/

James D. Stevens
Registration No. 35,691
P.O. Box 4390
Troy, Michigan 48099
(248) 689-3500

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